

***** news release

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FAO FISHERY MEETING--TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS, NEW ONES, COSTS, ACCEPTANCE

The discussions revolved around two topics--the economic phases of fish consumption and the technological and acceptability factors of fish flour, or fish protein concentrate, as the technologists prefer to call it.

Debate was enlivened and smiles elicited by one delegate who said that while malnutrition was a problem of developing nations there was an ardent search for relief from atherosclerosis by well-fed people in the well developed areas.

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, and general chairman of the conference, declared from the floor that there was no indication that the distribution of the world's income would adversely affect the traditional fishery products in the next 100 years.

Still other speakers declared that quality as well as economics was the key and that there would always be a ready market for traditional products and for the newer ones if the quality of the material was kept at a uniformly high level.

Another defender of traditional fishery products was Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, who urged the conference not to forget that canning was still the best way to defeat time and climate. He urged that greater efforts be made to eliminate waste in production, processing, and distribution, and get canned products within the economic reach of those in the developing areas.

Discussion of fish protein concentrate was concerned with the technological aspects of manufacture, the need for education in promoting acceptability of the product and the economics involved in producing a high grade product at a low price.

Technological problems were considered serious but not overwhelming. Morocco reported having a good fish flour trade with some of the other African nations for use in human diet, and South Africa reported the successful use of fish flour as a fish protein supplement to a highly acceptable brown bread.

Many speakers declared that the undernourished people needed the benefits offered by fish protein immediately and that provision should be made to supply some acceptable type--dried, smoked or salted--fish to these people as soon as possible and not wait for technology to develop a more acceptable product.

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